



**12 Abbey Farm Barns,
Station Rd., Eynsham,
Oxon. OX29 4FA**



*tel 01865 580502
email ros kent@phonecoop.coop*

Robert Courts MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

29 - Aug - 2017

Dear Mr Courts,

re: National and Local Planning Policy.

Members of Transition Eynsham Area (GreenTEA) and Eynsham Planning Improvement Campaign (EPIC) are most concerned about the apparent watering down, in the Local Plan 2031, of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)'s directives about sustainability of house-building, energy efficiency and roads.

If Inspector Rivett finds the feeble wording of the WODC Local Plan eg 'show consideration', 'prudent use and management', 'promoting opportunities' and 'encourage' rather than require to be acceptable, we do not! We are concerned about the deception in the weakly worded policy; the impact on the interpretation of NPPF and Neighbourhood Plans; and the lower standards, compared with Oxford City Council plans, that will apply to any Oxford overspill. The Local Plan seems to be long on 'vision' but short on precise and enforceable directions. It needs to apply rigorous standards and specifications.

Unfortunately WODC have capitulated to the Written Ministerial Statement which left energy efficiency to the Building Regulations. The latter have not kept up with the need to reduce the rate of climate change. For example, a requirement for house building to progress by a strict timetable, to the 'Passivhaus' or net zero carbon emissions standard.

Local Plan 8.32 "the District has the potential to deliver greater carbon savings through new renewable energy infrastructure than can be achieved through the development of new low carbon buildings." We think that both are vital and should go ahead quickly with specific directives. ^[SEP] After all, West Oxfordshire is in a great position to benefit from the economic growth which will come from the transition to higher standards.

On transport, the Local Plan is already out of date, as it seems intent on meeting demand, while saying that car use will be discouraged. The only sustainable way to meet the impossibly high demand for travel is to take the cars off the road! The Local Plan should require joined up cycling and walking infrastructure with effective public transport. Best of all, of course, would be a reinstatement of the Carterton-Witney-Oxford railway as proposed by the Witney Oxford Transport Group! **

We are aware that the long delayed Emissions Reduction Plan (ominously re-named the Clean Growth Plan), is due out in the Autumn, but cannot see that sorting out the problem. Does 'Clean Growth' include mandatory retrofitting of the high proportion of older housing?

We request that you speak to members of your party, to sort this out nationally and locally for the benefit of the local area, the planning system and the planet! The broader question is; should we sacrifice a few amenities or the entire human race?

With many thanks for your kind attention,

Yours sincerely,

Rosalind Kent Sec. - Transition Eynsham Area (GreenTEA)
Member - Eynsham Planning Improvement Campaign (EPIC)

** <https://witneyoxfordtransport.wordpress.com/our-new-proposal/>